Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended) An electronic communication system, having

at least one base station having at least one antenna unit, in particular in coil form, which base station is arranged in particular on or in an object to be secured against unauthorized use and/or against unauthorized access~~, such as~~ on or in~~, say,~~ a means of transport or on or in an access system, and

at least one transponder station, in particular in data-carrier form, having at least one antenna unit, in particular in coil form, which transponder station

may in particular be carried with him by an authorized user and/or

is designed to exchange data signals with the base station, in which case, by means of the data signals

the authorization for use and/or access can be determined and/or

the base station can be controlled accordingly,

characterized in that

there is arranged in the base station at least one first delay element for setting a defined, and in particular substantially constant, signal transit time within the base station, wherein the first delay element comprises a first multistage element with a first plurality of individual delay stages and/or

there is arranged in the transponder station at least one second delay element for setting a defined, and in particular substantially constant, signal transit time within the transponder station, wherein the second delay element comprises a second multistage element with a second plurality of individual delay stages.

2. (currently amended) A communication system as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that the first delay element and/or the second delay element are/is arranged to be settable~~,~~ ~~multistage,~~ and switchable and have/has

at least one digital gate subject to a known signal transit time and/or

at least one filter and/or

at least one clocked shift register.

3. (previously presented) A communication system as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that

there is connected downstream of the last stage of the first delay element at least one first decision-making unit that is connected to at least one control unit of the base station and/or to at least one receiver unit of the base station and/or

there is connected downstream of the last stage of the second delay element at least one second decision-making unit that is connected to at least one control unit of the transponder station and/or to at least one receiver unit of the transponder station.

4. (previously presented) A base station for an electronic communication system as claimed in claim 1, characterized by

at least one receiver unit for receiving the data signals from the transponder station, which receiver unit is connected to the antenna unit associated with the base station,

at least one control unit, in particular a microcontroller unit, for controlling the base station, which control unit is connected to the receiver unit and is preferably connected upstream of the first delay element,

the at least one first delay element for setting the defined, and in particular substantially constant, signal transit time within the base station, and

at least one transmitter unit for transmitting the data signals to the transponder station, which transmitter unit is connected to the antenna unit associated with the base station and is preferably connected downstream of the first delay element.

5. (previously presented) A transponder station for an electronic communication system as claimed in claim 1 characterized by

at least one receiver unit for receiving the data signals from the base station, which receiver unit is connected to the antenna unit associated with the transponder station and is preferably connected upstream of the second delay element,

the at least one second delay element for setting the defined, and in particular substantially constant, signal transit time within the transponder station,

at least one control unit, in particular a microcontroller unit, for controlling the transponder station, which control unit is preferably connected downstream of the second delay element, and

at least one transmitter unit for transmitting the data signals to the base station, which transmitter unit is connected to the antenna unit associated with the transponder station and is preferably connected downstream of the control unit.

6. (currently amended) A transponder station as claimed in claim 5, characterized in that the transponder station is arranged in at least one ~~data carrier, and in particular in at least one card, and specifically in at least one~~ chip card.

7. (previously presented) A method of detecting and/or guarding against at least one, in particular external, attack, and preferably at least one relay attack, on at least one electronic communication system as defined in the preamble to claim 1, characterized in that there are/is set

within the base station, a defined, and in particular substantially constant, signal transit time and/or within the transponder station, a defined, and in particular substantially constant, signal transit time, thus enabling the attack to be detected if the sum of

the signal transit time within the base station,

the signal transit time within the transponder station and

twice the signal transit time of the data signals between the base station and the transponder station exceeds a defined threshold value.

8. (currently amended) A method as claimed in claim 7, characterized in that

~~[a.1]~~ a pulse that forms at least part of the data signal to be transmitted to the transponder station is conveyed within the base station to at least one stage of the first delay element,

~~[a.2]~~ the pulse, having been delayed by the at least one stage of the first delay element, is then fed to at least one transmitter unit associated with the base station and is received directly, ~~i.e.~~ with no relevant additional delay, by at least one receiver unit associated with the base station,

~~[b]~~ the pulse that forms at least part of the data signal to be transmitted to the transponder station is fed through the entire first delay element substantially at the same time,

~~[c]~~ at least one first decision-making unit that is connected downstream of the last stage of the first delay element signals to at least one control unit of the base station to determine whether it is the delayed pulse fed through the transmitter unit and the receiver unit of the base station ~~(see method step [a.2])~~ or the pulse fed through the entire first delay element ~~(see method step [b])~~ that arrives at the first decision-making unit first, and

~~[d]~~ the first delay element is so set or switched or corrected that the delayed pulse fed through the transmitter unit and the receiver unit of the base station ~~(see method step [a.2])~~ and the pulse fed through the entire first delay element ~~(see method step [b])~~ arrive as nearly simultaneously as possible.

9. (currently amended) A method as claimed in claim 7, characterized in that

~~[e]~~ a pulse that forms at least part of the data signal received from the base station is conveyed within the transponder station to at least one stage of the second delay element,

the pulse, having been delayed by the at least one stage of the second delay element, is then fed to a microcontroller unit of the transponder station,

~~[f]~~ the pulse that forms at least part of the data signal received from the base station is also fed through the entire second delay element substantially at the same time,

~~[e]~~ at least one second decision-making unit that is connected downstream of the last stage of the second delay element signals to at least one control unit of the transponder station to determine whether it is the delayed pulse fed through the microcontroller unit of the transponder station ~~(see method step [e])~~ or the pulse fed through the entire second delay element ~~(see method step [f])~~ that arrives at the second decision-making unit first, and

~~[d]~~ the second delay element is so set or switched or corrected that the delayed pulse fed through the microcontroller unit of the transponder station ~~(see method step [e])~~ and the pulse fed through the entire second delay element ~~(see method step [f])~~ arrive as nearly simultaneously as possible.

10. (currently amended) The electronic communication system of claim 5, further comprising ~~Use of at least one~~ use of the electronic communication system ~~as claimed in claim 1, and in particular of at least one~~ and the transponder station ~~as claimed in claim 5,~~ for authenticating and/or for identifying and/or for checking the authority to ~~use, enter or the like~~ use or enter an object to be secured by means of the communication system~~, such as, say, a means of transport or an access system~~.

11. (new) The electronic communication system of claim 10, wherein the object to be secured comprises a means of transport.

12. (new) The electronic communication system of claim 10, wherein the electronic communication system comprises an access system for a building.